

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

200 W. Washington, Suite 301  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
(317) 233-0696  
<http://www.in.gov/legislative>

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6831**

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 394

**NOTE PREPARED:** Dec 30, 2011

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Bicentennial Conservation Fund.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Merritt

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X GENERAL  
X DEDICATED  
FEDERAL

**IMPACT:** State

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill establishes the Bicentennial Conservation Fund to fund major conservation projects to celebrate 200 years of Indiana statehood.

The bill makes an appropriation.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2012.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** The fiscal impact of this bill is indeterminate; it would depend upon actions taken by the General Assembly, the Natural Resources Foundation, the Indiana Heritage Trust Program, and interested donors. The bill establishes the dedicated, nonreverting Bicentennial Conservation Trust Fund to celebrate 200 years of statehood through the funding of major conservation projects in the state.

Administered by the State Budget Agency (SBA), the fund consists of appropriations, gifts, grants, interest earned on money in the fund, and money transferred to the fund. The bill provides that money in the fund is continuously appropriated for the purposes of the fund. It further provides that any appropriations made to the fund by the General Assembly are to be allotted and allocated at the beginning of the fiscal period for which the appropriation was made.

The bill allows for transfers of money to be made to the fund by the Natural Resources Foundation from the Indiana Natural Resources Fund and the Forest Restoration Fund. The bill also allows the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to transfer money to the fund from accounts within the Indiana Heritage Trust Fund.

### **Explanation of State Revenues:**

*Background: Indiana Natural Resources Fund and Forest Restoration Fund:* The exclusive purpose of the Natural Resources Foundation is to acquire real and personal property to be donated to the DNR (with approval) and to local units of government. The dedicated, nonreverting Indiana Natural Resources Fund consists of gifts of money from the sale of gifted properties. The dedicated, nonreverting Forest Restoration Fund also consists of gifts of money from the sale of gifted properties.

*Indiana Heritage Trust Fund:* The purpose of the dedicated, nonreverting Indiana Heritage Trust Fund is to acquire real property or interests in real property that: (1) is an example of outstanding natural features and habitats; (2) has historical and archeological significance; and (3) provides areas for conservation, recreation, and the restoration of native biological diversity. Money in the Indiana Heritage Trust Fund may consist of appropriations made by the General Assembly, interest income on money in the fund, fees from environmental licence plates, donations, and transfers from other funds. Indiana Heritage Trust Fund accounts include the State Parks Account, State Forests Account, Nature Preserves Account, Fish and Wildlife Account, Outdoor Recreation Account, Stewardship Account, and the Discretionary Account.

### **Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

### **Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** State Treasurer; State Auditor; State Budget Agency; Natural Resources Foundation; Indiana Heritage Trust Program; Department of Natural Resources.

### **Local Agencies Affected:**

**Information Sources:** IC 14-12-1 and IC 14-12-2.

**Fiscal Analyst:** Kathy Norris, 317-234-1360.